

## Senate Resolution 140

By: Senators Jones of the 10th and Harp of the 29th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Acknowledging the importance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and  
2 creating a Senate Study Committee on Consolidation of Institutions of Higher Education; and  
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, recent proposals calling for the Board of Regents of the University System of  
5 Georgia to merge Savannah State University with Armstrong Atlantic State University and  
6 Albany State University with Darton College have been met with public criticism and outcry;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, HBCUs provide an environment in which traditionally African American  
9 students thrive and have access to a high quality education; and

10 WHEREAS, HBCUs are a source of accomplishment and great pride for the community as  
11 well as the entire nation; and

12 WHEREAS, the importance of HBCUs extends beyond the students they educate, as they  
13 contribute substantially to economic growth and continually work to improve the economic  
14 health of the neighborhoods surrounding the school; and

15 WHEREAS, the current economic downturn has opened the discussion on merging four  
16 higher education institutions located in close proximity to each other in order to reduce  
17 administrative costs and eliminate the duplication of similar services and programs; and

18 WHEREAS, a study of the necessity for consolidating Savannah State University with  
19 Armstrong Atlantic State University, Albany State University with Darton College, and other  
20 Georgia HBCUs with nearby counterparts and the resulting impact of such mergers would  
21 assist this body's future consideration of these issues.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate  
23 Study Committee on Consolidation of Institutions of Higher Education to be composed of  
24 three members of the Senate and four members of the public appointed by the President of  
25 the Senate, who shall include one member of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus  
26 committee on education. The President of the Senate shall designate the Chairman of the  
27 Senate Committee on Higher Education as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson  
28 shall call all meetings of the committee.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the issues  
30 referred to above. Furthermore, the committee shall recommend any action or legislation  
31 which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such  
32 meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable  
33 it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the  
34 objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the  
35 allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.  
36 The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the  
37 committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds  
38 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds  
39 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and  
40 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be  
41 made on or before December 15, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on  
42 December 15, 2009.